tax Act. I do not propose to widen the scope of this amendment. It is necessary to pass this amendment in this Session. If I widen the scope of the Bill, then it will not be possible to pass it in this Session.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am not asking about that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Therefore, this amendment is confined to Chapter 14B of the Income-tax Act. I would request for your support to pass this amendment after you see it and study it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We should pass it on merits.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Of course, on merits.

On the estimates of black money, I am very cynical about these estimates. There was an estimate made in the year 1983-84. I am sometimes amused by these figures. The black money was estimated between Rs. 31584 crore to Rs. 36786 crore.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Does it mean that after 1984 nothing has been done?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not saying that.

MR. SPEAKER : He is coming to the other figure.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You should first arrest the informer. He knows better than you. He will give you more information. He knows up to the last pie.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We all know that there is a lot of black money. Some Members will disagree and some will agree - I am sure you will agree - that the black money is there largely because of the regime of high taxation, high stamp duties in property transactions and, of course, greed is also there. There are a variety of reasons as to why the black money is generated. We can discuss the larger issue of black money separately and if any law is to be made, we can look into it. But in answer to your question, apart from this Bill, I will introduce in the next Session of Parliament a Bill on money laundering.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : This question is about the black money. The Finance Minister has himself said that the causes of generation of black money are high taxation and stamp duties on transfer of property. Is the Government considering any measures to rectify these causes which generate black money? Secondly, in one of his earlier replies the Finance Minister has said that legitimisation of black money is not recommended by any economist. Will the Government consider that where the black money is available in large quantities it can be donated to the funds of political parties, especially when the people possessing the money say that it belongs to a political party? This is not allowed. Funding of elections is a hot topic these days. Government, I think, stands to save a considerable amount if it allows, even for once, the allowances made from black money to be donated to the funds of a political party. If the Minister does not want to reply, I can understand it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Is my distinguished learned friend a potential donor or a potential recipient?

[English]

Foreign Equity in Coal Mining Sector

*131. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow 100% foreign equity in coal mining sector;

(b) if so, whether the Coal Department has been asked to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to increase the area for prospecting licensing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time the Government propose to allow foreign equity investment in coal mining?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The industrial proposals of 100% owned subsidiaries of foreign companies are generally supported subject to certain eligibility conditions. All downstream investments by foreign holding companies through joint ventures and subsidiaries require prior Government approval from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). No separate policy to allow 100% foreign equity in the coal mining sector has been laid down by the Government.

(b) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 does not provide for grant of prospecting licences of leases for coal mining.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to Part (b) of the question.

(d) Foreign equity participation in the private sector coal companies seeking to mine coal for captive consumption for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production is allowed subject to prior approval of FIPB on a case to case basis.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : At the very outset, I apologise for asking this question. I never thought that Question No. 11 will come today and that is why I asked a supplementary.

The hon. Minister has said that as a policy there is no hundred per cent foreign equity but the FIP Board can clear it. Is it a fact that some applications came and ultimately the FIP Boad has rejected them; if so, the reasons thereof?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Hon'ble Member, it is correct. As the coal Company has not given permission

for 100 per cent capital investment but it is routed through FIP Board and then we take a decision on it. But it is not 100 percent, I do not have full details about it.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, part (d) of the answer says :

> "Foreign equity participation in the private sector coal companies seeking to mine coal for captive consumption for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production is allowed subject to prior approval of FIPB on a case to case basis."

I would like to know from the Minister how many such cases have been sanctioned under the new economic policy.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : In the private sector only Nippon Denro has been given approval.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Former Coal Minister, present Speaker, Shri Sangma, Shri Ajit Panja and Shri Jagdish Tytler have assured this House several times that the present coal mines would not be priviatised. Has only amendment been made in this policy? Moreover, I would also like to know as to whether any public sector coal mine has been handed over to private sector, joint sector or any sector of the State? So far as I know about iron steel, the same tagging policy is being implemented in all mines. If tagging system is there then what is the logic behind privatisation?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : The Government has so far not formulated any policy to hand over public sector coal mines to the private sector. Oly captive mines and installation washeries have been entrusted to the private sector. There is no provision for privatisation.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Earlier, coal industry was in the private sector. Then late Indira Gandhi Government nationalised this industry in two phases—coking coal and non-coking coal. Now the policy of the Government is that private party would be given a coal patch only be it in the name of captive mines, iron steel, cement or power. It has just been said on behalf of the Government that a coal mine has been handed over to a company. Whether any change has been carried out in the earlier policy of the Government in regard to coal industry? Whether private Party which has been given coal mine for captive power plant has started production? If so, whether power has been generated by that plant or not?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Power is being generated in the captive power plant. We have not formulated any new policy.

[English]

Collaboration with Indonesia

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*133. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a detailed Project Proposal for technology upgradation of small scale industries functioning in that State in collaboration with Indonesia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps to be taken for promotion of technology upgradation among small scale industries through international co-operation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Project Proposal prepared by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation for promoting technology transfer from the Indonesian small and medium enterprises to the Indian Small Scale Industries and vice-versa was submitted to the Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi for assistance under the Scheme "International Co-operation - Modernisation and Technology Upgradation".

(c) In order to promote technology upgradation and modernisation in the SSI sector, the Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries is implementing the scheme of International Cooperation - Modernisation and Technology Upgradation under the "Plan" from the year 1995-96. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to National Small Industries Corporation, State agencies, Industries Associations and Export Promotion Councils for promoting modernisation and technology upgradation in the SSI sector.

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, women in Andhra Pradesh are coming forward to start small scale industries. They need assistance for upgradation of their technology as well as a central place for selling their product.

May I, therefore, ask the following supplementaries?

What are the programmes designed to help backward women in rural and semi-urban areas through the development of entrepreneurial skills and when will they be implemented?